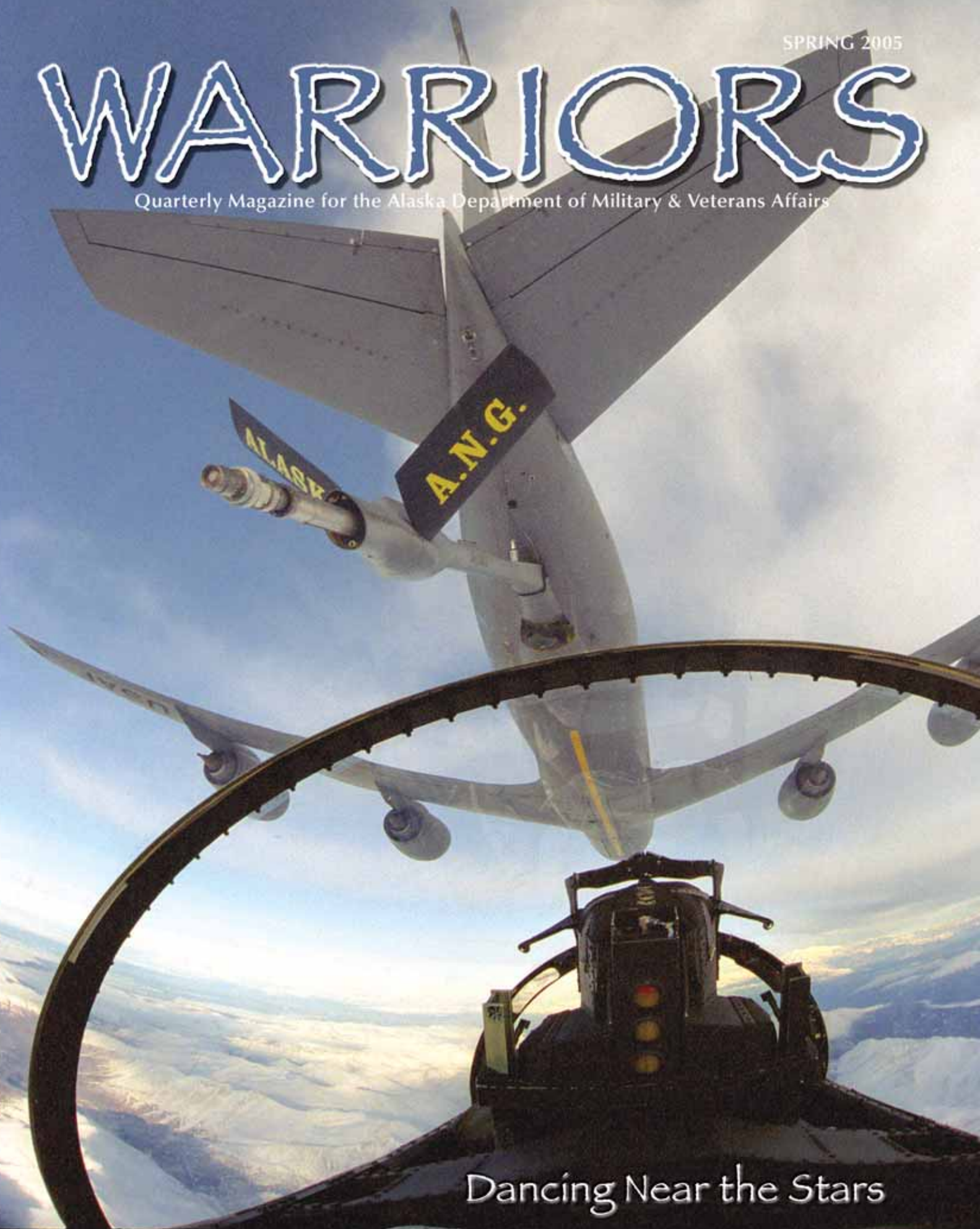


SPRING 2005

# WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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# WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

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After The Tsunami. Alaska Air National Guard Major Russ Wilmot, second from left, took part with a team of Anchorage firefighters, in helping out in Thailand in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami that killed tens of thousands of people. (See stories at page 11). Photo: Courtesy of Anchorage Fire Department

Dancing Near The Stars. An Alaska Air National Guard 168th Air Refueling Wing KC-135R Stratotanker gets ready to refuel a 12th Fighter Squadron F-15D as it dances near the boom of the tanker during NOBLE EAGLE operations. Photo: Mark Farmer, topcover.com

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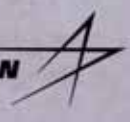
veterans and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to:

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# Dispatches from the Front...

## Fort Greely Surfing is High-speed

*Comforts, Necessities of Home Built for Guard's Missile Defenders*

Story by Sergeant Sara Storey, 100th GMD Brigade Public Affairs

FORT GREELY... "High-speed Internet access was one of the No. 1 priorities for the Family Readiness Group and 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense)," said Rich Garrett, director of information management, Fort Greely. "High-speed Internet has become a basic standard of living necessity, and there was a large need for it here – more than 150 people signed up the first day it was offered."

Previously, the only Internet connection available was an archaic dial-up system, according to Lieutenant Colonel Rob Cornelius, garrison commander, Fort Greely.

Customers can be up-and-running within 30 minutes of ordering the service – the modem can be self-installed. Garrett said the installation now has approximately 400 high-speed Internet drops – 150 of these are in residential areas (housing areas and barracks) and the rest are in temporary lodging areas.

"Having high-speed Internet available is a great thing," said Command Sergeant Major David Massullo, command sergeant major, 49th MD Bn. "A lot of people do Internet shopping up here and it provides the ability to do advanced schooling – overall it makes a big difference." ■

## DHS&EM Team Responds to Northwest Disaster

Teams with the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) deployed to Nome and other western Alaska communities in response to a strong, late fall Bering Sea storm that battered the coastline. They assessed storm damage and got recovery efforts going in the affected communities. ■



Saluting Service, Sacrifice and Traditions. Governor Frank H. Murkowski, commander in chief of the Alaska National Guard, speaks before more than 400 soldiers, airmen and civilian employees during a special recognition of the National Guard's 368th Birthday, December 13th. Brigadier General Craig Christensen, Deputy Adjutant General, left, hosted the event at the Camp Denali Armory. Photo: Staff Sergeant Ken Denny, 117th MPAD



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You Lose.

# Where in the World

## Alaska Air Guard Provides Pacific Rim Airlift

*Japan, the Philippines, Guam, Thailand, South Korea Among Ports of Call*

Story by Captain Candis Olmstead, 176th Wing

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan... Hopping from country to country, about 15 members and a C-130 Hercules from the Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron, of the 176th Wing, were on the go in the Pacific recently.

Teams of Alaska's airmen were temporarily assigned at Yokota Air Base for Operation Volant Shogun to perform airlift of troops, equipment and supplies for the Pacific Air Forces across the nations of the Pacific Rim.

In the latest rotation, Alaska guardsmen served for nearly seven months. Here's a look at how a typical week sized up:

- Monday morning began with a trip to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa. With cargo onboard, they picked up four people, including two "Ravens" – Security Forces personnel with specialized training to "protect personnel and equipment," according to Raven Staff Sergeant James Collins, of the 18th Security Forces Squadron at Kadena.
- Also along for the ride, were two members from the 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Combat Mobility Element. They travel to deployed locations to inspect cargo – sometimes checking the load a second time for quality control.
- From Kadena, the airmen headed to Sangley Point in Cavite City, the Republic of Philippines. There, Seabees, a nickname for U.S. Navy construction engineers, were eagerly waiting with their cargo – gear

needed to build a boat ramp during their two month deployment to the Philippines. The Alaska Air Guard's C-130 was their ride back to American territory. The westbound Seabees landed in Guam and began their next assignment: more under-water construction.

- The Alaska team and aircraft, along with the support teams from Kadena, returned to the Philippines after a day of "crew rest." This time the flight took them farther south to Edwin Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga, in the southern region of the

Philippines. They picked up the last two Seabees of the original 13-man team to bring them to Guam to meet up with the rest of their crew. The Seabees will return to their California homes, after completing their 11-month deployment.

The last rotation completed more than seven months of deployments for the Alaska Air National Guard's support of Operation Volant Shogun.

"What we've been doing in the Pacific, as partners with the Pacific Air Forces, is nothing short of superb," said



**Getting It Just Right.** Getting freight loaded into the back end of an Alaska Air Guard C-130 Hercules for its flight to the Philippines was important. Alaskans picked up and moved a U.S. Navy Seabee construction team to their next assignment on Guam. Photo: Captain Candis Olmstead, 176th Wing



**Alaskans Build Hawaiian Sidewalks.** For Alaska Air National Guard members (left to right) Master Sergeant James Durr, Technical Sergeant Scott Peterson and Technical Sergeant Julian Smith tamp down dirt outside the Hawaii Air National Guard's Civil Engineering facilities as they prepare to lay in a new stretch of sidewalk. The three work in the Pavement and Heavy Equipment Shop of the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron. Photo: Senior Airman John Callahan, Alaska Air National Guard



**Victory at Nome.** Norwegian Robert Sorlie won the 2005 Iditarod Race. Traveling more than 1,000 miles by dog sled – from Anchorage to Nome. Sorlie claimed his second win in the last great race. Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Chip Andrews, 1/297th Infantry



**Qualified Muddy Grins.** Soldiers of 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, from the Alaska and Hawaii Army National Guards, recently completed their Individual Movement Training course. This was refresher training on basic combat military movements. It included high-crawl, low-crawl, and the 3-5 second rush through an extensive, wet-dark, red-volcanic-mud training range. The contestants were all very glad it had rained for several days prior to the event. The unit was in Hawaii completing their mobilization training prior to movement to a one-year tour of duty in Afghanistan. Photo: Sergeant First Class Mark Ball, 196th Training Brigade, US Army



**Street Wise – New Friends Help Secure Their Neighborhood.** Guard soldiers from Alaska's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, on patrol near Camp Victory, meet with local neighbors who want stability and security for their families. Photo: Courtesy Alaska National Guard

**More Alaska Army Guard Aviators Head To War Front.** The members of Echo Company, 1/207th Aviation Regiment stand their final formation prior to heading out for duty in Kuwait and Iraq. Nearly 30 members of the Guard's C-23B Sherpa fixed wing company are flying up to five aircraft during their tour of duty. Photo: Major Mike Haller, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs



Major General Craig Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "Our partnerships and our availability to step up and take on the necessary tasks to complete the missions are critical to the needs of our Air Force and our nation," he said.

Campbell noted that the 176th Wing has been on the leading edge of Volant Shogun support – flying dozens of missions and logging hundreds of hours applying the skills that are part of the 144th Airlift Squadron's traditions.

"In the seven months the Alaska Air National Guard, and in particular the

144th Airlift Squadron, has been supporting Volant Shogun, more than 100 members of the 176th Wing – from aircrew to maintenance and support teams – have deployed for extended periods to Japan and throughout the Pacific Rim," Campbell said.

"They have used two to three of the Wing's eight C-130H's at any given time. They have flown into at least 11 countries, including Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma, New Zealand and Australia. They've supported repatriation missions (return of military

members' remains to home country from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam), tsunami relief and standard airlift throughout the Asia-Pacific region," he added.

Though Yokota Air Base has its own C-130s assigned, the heavy demand for airlift in the Pacific Rim – and the support they provide around the globe – requires assistance from other units to step up and help out. ■



# My Turn

**Major General Craig E. Campbell**

Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard & Commissioner,  
Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



We live in an extraordinary time in the life of Alaska. Over the past several months, we've deployed the largest number of Alaska National Guardsmen into war zones since World War II. We should have no doubt, though, that we could not even begin to succeed in our missions without a lot of help.

First, we need to acknowledge that we owe everything to our families. I have had the opportunity to meet so many of the spouses, children and parents of our deployed soldiers and airmen. I admire their courage, their faith in the future, and their pride and commitment to their servicemember and to our Alaska National Guard. Each person – whether elder or youth – is a remarkable source of inspiration and dedication. They serve, too.

*We owe much to the employers* throughout Alaska. Time and again, I've met with business leaders and employers of our Guardmembers – I've had the opportunity to share your appreciation for their support with them. I've given them updates on your activities. I can tell you that each one expressed their unswerving support for what we're doing in this War on

Terrorism. They understand what is important – that we defend our homeland, that we seek out America's enemies in their lairs and bring them to justice, and that we preserve our freedom and liberty. Let there be no doubt of their commitment and where they stand in these challenging times.

*We will do our best in all we do.* In the midst of all of the deployments and the ongoing transformations of our forces, we are achieving a level of momentum and success frankly unmatched in our uniquely distinguished traditions. Our soldiers are standing up for assignments in Iraq, Afghanistan, throughout the Pacific and in Europe. In the midst of all of this, we answered a call for help with tsunami relief, and we did it successfully. We're more than answering the mail here at home. When a severe winter storm hit Kaktovik, there was that rare singular moment when the safety of 300 lives was in balance and the Guard and our employees in the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management came through. Our traditions are our destiny.

So, thank you for your time, talents and service. ■

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# Veterans

## Senator Huggins Helps Guard Members Deployed to Combat Zones; Creates Alaska Territorial Guard Day

Story by Jeff Turner, Press Secretary for Alaska State Legislature Senate Majority News

JUNEAU...Senator Charlie Huggins (R – Rural Mat-Su/Chugiak) introduced two pieces of legislation affecting our military. One will help Alaska National Guard members deployed to a combat zone, while another recognizes a special group of Alaskans that already served their country during World War II.

SB 91 creates a fund within the state treasury to pay life insurance premiums for guard members when they are serving in combat zones, like Iraq and Afghanistan. Paying the premium demonstrates to the men and women on the front lines in the war on terrorism that their sacrifices are appreciated.

SB 90 designates each October 18 as Alaska Territorial Guard Day. The Alaska Territorial Guard was formed in 1942 and was made up primarily of Alaska Natives. They were invaluable as scouts and guides for the U.S. Army and patrolled Alaska's vast coastline to protect the state from further Japanese attacks. Naming October 18 as

Alaska Territorial Guard Day allows communities and civic groups the chance to honor guard members with ceremonies and observances.



Senator Huggins also presented a legislative citation honoring the military veterans who volunteer their time to the Iditarod Sled Dog Race each year. The senator issued the citation during the ceremonial start in Anchorage and the restart in Wasilla on March 5 and 6, 2005. Senator Huggins had a long and distinguished military career. He served as an Airborne Ranger in Vietnam and was the Senior Army Advisor to the Alaska National Guard before retiring with the rank of Colonel in 1995.

He was the Alaska Coordinator of Veterans Affairs before his appointment to the Alaska State Senate in November 2004. Senator Huggins lives with his wife, Becky, and three children in Wasilla. ■

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## Alaska's Military Youth Academy Graduates Record Number

*Guard's Youth Academy Sets Another Record With 107 Crossing the Stage: Re-starting Their Lives Fresh, Anew*

Story by Sergeant First Class Janet Carter, 117th MPAD



High Hats. A traditional sign of completing a challenging program – 107 cadets of the Alaska National Guard's Military Youth Academy stepped across the stage and graduated from the intense 22-week-long program recently. Photo: Major Mike Haller, JFHQ-AK Public Affairs

**CAMP CARROLL...** After more than five months of rigorous training, the Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA) graduated 107 cadets from around the state March 4, at Fort Richardson's Buckner Field House.

"You became part of a team," Timothy Jones, Director of the AMYA, told the graduates. "You accepted the challenge, and you

have made it." He spoke to an audience of cadets, family members, friends and neighbors who nearly filled the capacity of the field house.

The Alaska National Guard's ChalleNge Program is designed for "at risk" youth, 16-18 years of age, who have left school, but want to turn their lives in a positive direction. The course, which is funded by both the state and federal governments, uses academic, vocational, and adventure-based, physically challenging training to motivate and change the lives of its students.

The 22 weeks of in-residence training include academic studies, vocational instruction, life skills, military skills and self-discipline. The goals of this training are to develop life-coping skills, educational excellence, vocational training, responsible citizenship, healthy life skills, leadership skills, physical fitness and community involvement through service projects.

The highly structured environment allows students to focus their attention on studies and to learn the value of teamwork and responsibility.

After graduating from this phase of the program, cadets must still meet specific performance and reporting standards for 12 months. This includes weekly contact with assigned mentors, employment and/or continuing education, and they must report to Academy staff monthly.

The program had its start back in 1992 when Mr. Dan Donohue, chief of public affairs at the National Guard Bureau, got the idea rolling. By 1993, Alaska had established its own program and has been operating with ever-increasing success since then. ■

## Challenging the Future...Alaska Military Youth Academy Graduates of Class of 2004-05

### Anchor Point

Jessica Cosens

### Anchorage

Jewel Abraham  
Nicholas Alexander  
Chuck Axt  
Jasmine Bautista  
Glenda Bonjoc  
Robert Brandon  
Joshua Brown  
Melvin Caldwell  
Brandon Clark  
Patrick Conner Jr.  
Madison Courtney  
Christopher  
Cowherd  
Carolyn Fitz-Enz  
Bridget Fortner  
Kayleen Gatto  
Austin Goodrich  
Ryan Graney  
Mikhail Johnson

### Anchorage (cont'd)

Kyle Kaze  
Brian Ko  
Sophia Mannhardt  
Howard Minkler  
Alfonso Mora  
April Nicholi  
Dari Osguthorpe  
Dale Paulson  
Christianna Pelanoto  
Marc Rand  
Nicholas Richards  
Britanny Rinconeno  
Jerome Sanders  
Christopher Schnell  
Chase Sedy  
Grady Silook  
Nick Sounthone  
Timaly Stebel  
James Thorne III  
Leng Xiong  
Cody Zaumzel

### Aniak

Mark Brown  
Andrew John Jr.

### Big Lake

Michael Longiny  
Michelle Winchester

### Chugiak

Shana McIntyre

### Delta Junction

Rosheen Wolf

### Dillingham

Michael Kohler  
Frederick Wilson

### Douglas

Malachi Johnson

### Eagle River

Madio Littlefield  
Catlin Mobley

### Fairbanks

Gary Atlla  
Ryan Beeman  
Richard Blevins  
Courtney Burr  
Kena Field  
Christopher Harris  
Jacob Isaac  
Jessica Moore  
Cody Rasmussen  
Kerry Rasmussen  
Fairalee Robinson  
Dakota Turner  
Tommy White

### Fort Greely

Christopher Stimel

### Fort Richardson

James McDonnell

### Fort Wainwright

Zach Whisenhunt

### Juneau

Hunter Hildre  
Jake Hunt  
Ryan Nicholas

### Kenai

Ian Urquhart

### Ketchikan

Jeffrey Owings

### Kodiak

Sean Ash

### Lawton

Otis Johnson III

### Nikiski

Nicholas Yoncher

### North Pole

Jeremy Falzarano  
David Howell

### North Pole (cont'd)

Christopher Luntz  
Jarith Sageman

### Palmer

Lyla Frye  
Mark Larson  
Cord Lewis  
Dennis Mayfield

### Soldotna

German Castillo  
Nathaniel  
McCormick  
Eric Roberts

### Sterling

Bryant Evans  
Jose Salinas  
Nathan Woods

### Talkeetna

Mathias Hoffa

### Wasilla

Stephen Anastasio  
James Anderson Jr.  
David Coon  
Joshua DeGeus  
Collier Duffin  
Jonathan Edgren  
Brian George  
Adam Hutchings  
Casey Jeffries  
Lorena Marsolek  
Andrew Oakes  
Robert Pearson  
Jarvis Raab  
Billy Squire  
Josh Williams

### Willow

Zachariah Foster

### Wrangell

Sonja Turner

# Joint Forces

Ready to Serve



## Bonuses Increase for Army National Guard

*Incentive Bonuses Triple, Student Loan Repayment Program Doubles in Effort to Boost Army Guard*

Story by Kalei Brooks

CAMP DENALI...In an effort to boost recruiting and retention during the global war on terrorism, the Alaska Army National Guard is increasing enlistment and reenlistment bonuses by as much as \$10,000.

The increases for this fiscal year are earmarked for three categories of soldiers: new recruits with no prior service, people who join the Army Guard after serving on active duty and Guard soldiers who agree to reenlist for three or six years.

Under the new incentive program, which runs through Sept. 30, Guard soldiers who have previously served may pocket as much as \$15,000 – triple the previous bonus – on a six-year reenlistment. For new guardmembers who have no prior service, they will be offered a \$10,000 enlistment bonus if they join into one of the Army Guard's top critical skill areas deemed necessary to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. For Alaska, these specialties include: infantryman, motor transport operator, military police, automated logistics supply, light-wheeled vehicle mechanic, health care specialist, food service operations, unit supply specialist and combat engineer.

The Student Loan Repayment Program doubled its benefits to \$20,000 for non-prior service people who have existing loans when they enlist. These are just some of the ways guardmembers can take advantage of the bonus money.

"These incentives will significantly help our retention," said Major General Craig Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard. "With Alaskan soldiers fighting overseas, this is a great way to show them we value their service, and we hope it also shows them we want them to continue to be involved in the Guard when they return from active duty."

Officials report that both Guard and Army Reserve soldiers make up about 40 percent of the 148,000 troops in Iraq. Another 8,200 are serving in Afghanistan. Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said approximately 100,000 Guard soldiers have been on active duty at home or abroad at any given time since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

To learn more about the increased bonuses, contact the Alaska Army National Guard recruiting office at (907) 264-5300. ■



Cross-Cultural Communication Key to Success. Members of the Alaska National Guard's recruiting teams from Fairbanks and Anchorage took part in Cultural Communications class focusing on Alaska Native and military communication recently. The event was hosted by the Yukon-Koyukuk School District. Course members at the Fairbanks location included, from the left: First Lieutenant Ryan Tilbury (also a counselor with the School District), Master Sergeant Danielle St. Laurent, Technical Sergeant Scott Stewart, Ms. Susan Paskvan, Lieutenant Colonel Martine Pommerville, Senior Master Sergeant Mike Stoltz, Sergeant First Class Jordan Niemuth and Staff Sergeant B.J. Abbott.

Photo: Courtesy of Yukon-Koyukuk School District

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# Environmental

Preserving the Land: Citizens & Soldiers

## Environmental Protection: *Canada Host Alaskans for Cross-Border Terrorism Exercise*

Story and photos by Jamie Littrell

WHITEHORSE...The Canadian city of Whitehorse played host for a unique cross-border terrorism exercise focused on strengthening ties between Alaska and the Yukon Territory.

"Terrorists don't recognize borders, and because we have such a large border with Canada, we need to have that strong working relationship with our partners across that border," said Deputy Director for Alaska's Homeland Security Tom Burgess.

Alaska's DHS&EM was part of the delegation that included the Alaska State Troopers, the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"We need to know who they are, how to contact them, we need to understand how their law enforcement and emergency management systems work and conversely, they need to know how we

operate as well," Burgess said.

Alaska and Canada already have mutual aid agreements in place to fight wildfires during the summer. One of the key points brought up during the exercise was looking at expanding those agreements to cover an anti-terror response.

Burgess added, "Terrorism and natural disaster responses should not be treated differently. If we are chasing a terrorist and they go across the border, we're going to need their help to continue the chase. We want them to be comfortable to come to us if they have a problem and they want us to look for somebody, so knowing how each other's systems work has a great deal of value."

Burgess said he would like to see this kind of cross-border exercise with the Yukon Territory become an annual event with exercises being held both in Canada and here in Alaska. ■



Experience Counts. Alaska's Deputy Director for Emergency Management Jim Butchart, right, was joined by Wayne Rush, in representing the Alaskan view on emergency preparedness and the latch-up with homeland security.

"Terrorists don't recognize borders, and because we have such a large border with Canada, we need to have that strong working relationship with our partners across that border."

— Wayne Rush



A Circle of Friends. Tom Burgess, center, Alaska's Deputy Director for Homeland Security, addressed colleagues during an anti-terrorism exercise in Whitehorse. Emergency managers, law enforcement, and homeland security specialists gathered to share and work through homeland security models of operation for Alaska and the Yukon Territory.

# Tsunami Relief: *Efforts Defined 144th Airlift Squadron's Character Helping Victims in Indonesia, Thailand*

Story by Captain John Haynes, Combined Information Bureau, CSF-536

ROYAL THAI NAVAL AIR BASE, UTAPAO, Thailand... They were re-tasked with no notice from Yokota Air Base, Japan, to support a mission to Royal Thai Naval Air Base, Utapao, Thailand. Sixteen hours later, they were working long hours under daunting conditions taking on a variety of missions, from carrying humanitarian goods to Indonesia, to ferrying the Thai prime minister from Bangkok.

But Lieutenant Colonel Mark Hedlund, deployed commander of the 144th Airlift Squadron, said despite all of the challenges, members of this Air National Guard C-130 squadron were all glad to be in action, supporting such a critical mission. "They asked us to help out, so we stepped up to it," he said. "We were able to directly help out the tsunami victims, which makes it really worthwhile."

The squadron, part of the 176th Wing based out of Kulis Air National Guard Base, Alaska, was tasked to provide relief to Yokota's 36th Airlift Squadron, which had provided C-130

support to tsunami relief operations since the beginning of Operation Unified Assistance.

In addition to transporting humanitarian goods into the tsunami devastated regions, the squadron was a key player in redeploying cargo and personnel back to home stations, as U.S. military support to relief operations wrapped up. On any given day, they could be flying cargo into Banda Aceh, or flying Marines back to Okinawa, because the nature and frequency of missions were constantly in flux.

"Ninety percent of our people are 'traditional,' or part-timers. They were taking leave from their civilian jobs, and in many cases, pay cuts that come with that to be a part of it," he added.

"This is what we train every day for. It's a very worthwhile effort," Lieutenant Colonel Hedlund said. "We had guys coming out of the woodwork to volunteer for this. Operations like this are not always as organized as other deployments, so it gives us a taste of how to operate when something like this happens." ■



Alaskans Help in Tsunami Recovery Effort. Major Russ Wilmot, executive officer to Major General Craig Campbell, assisted an Anchorage Fire Department team as they worked with Thai officials in the village of Phuket. The devastation, in the aftermath of the event, was completely overwhelming.

Photos: Courtesy of Alaska National Guard



## Tsunami General

Story by Master Sergeant Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Virginia... The devastation from December's tsunami was simply too bad to be true; too terrible to comprehend. That's why Alaska Air National Guard Brigadier General James Robinson got involved.

"I volunteered to go in any capacity. I really wanted to help," said Robinson, after the horrific tidal wave struck southern Asia without warning on Dec. 26. By Feb. 12, the death toll was reported to be 164,000 and counting.

His services were needed to help coordinate the military airlift operations that began carrying food, water and medical teams and supplies to hundreds of thousands of survivors after U.S. State Department officials determined where to send the help.

Robinson, the chief of staff for the Alaska Air National Guard, reported for Operation Unified Assistance duty at Utapao, Thailand. He took time off from his job as an Alaska Airlines pilot to serve as the deputy director for the Air Component Coordination Element.

"The intent was to get in fast, move supplies and equipment to the places where they were needed and then turn the relief operation over to the civilian agencies. That's what we did. He described what he witnessed, "It looked like a giant hand had wiped out the coastline," he recalled. "Houses and other buildings were destroyed along the shore. The saltwater had surged inland and killed the vegetation. The devastation was unbelievable." ■

# Fort Greely MPs Graduate From Army's Police Academy

*US Army Brings Police Academy Course North to Fit Needs of Missile Defense Security Forces*

Story and photos by Michele Garrett, Fort Greely Public Affairs



Fort Greely MPs Graduate From DA Police Academy. US Army brings Police Academy course north to fit needs of Missile Defense security forces.

FORT GREELY...The Department of the Army Police Academy here graduated six military police officers from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) and nine DA police officers Feb. 18.

The graduates received intensive physical and mental training including weapons handling, safety, survival and defensive tactics and constitutional, criminal and civil law, according to Major Marsha Renaud, operations officer with the DA Police. Additionally, the troops trained on use of force, verbal judo, crisis management, and uses of the expandable baton and pepper spray.

During the graduation ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Rob Cornelius, garrison commander, and Lieutenant Colonel Greg Bowen, commander, 49th MD Bn, spoke to the graduates commending them on their achievements. Bowen drew a laugh when he offered the make, model and license number of his vehicle – “just in case,” he said.

The 49th MD Bn graduates included Specialist Rosa Ralls (Honor Graduate), Sergeant Jose Medina, Specialist William

Christensen, Specialist Tony Craidon, Specialist Todd Godwin, Specialist Michael Manson.

DA police graduates include Michael Brady (Honor Graduate and Leadership

Award), David Crafford, Shawn Eckhart, Stephen Flowers, Bernard Holland, Catherine Nipper, Richard Palmer, Bruce Randolph and James Smith. ■



Top Missile Defense MP Graduate. Specialist Rosa Ralls, military police officer, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, graduated from the Department of the Army Police Academy as top honor graduate. She was congratulated with Lieutenant Colonel Greg Bowen, commander, 49th MD Bn.

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# Homeland Security & Emergency Management



## Kaktovik Relief Effort A Success

Far North Village  
Teetered on Disaster

*Alaska Air Guard's 176th Wing Made  
A Difference – Brings Technicians,  
Food, Supplies in Face of Severe Storm*

Story Contributors: Kalei Brooks, Jamie Littrell & Major Mike Haller  
Photos: Al Grillo, Associated Press, with permission



Kaktovik, Alaska sits on the lip of the Beaufort Sea, just 60 miles west of the Canadian border. The U.S. Air Force Barter Island Radar Station is immediately adjacent to Kaktovik. Life for nearly 300 residents is always a challenge. But, on Jan. 9, 2005, everything seemed to go wrong.

Critical infrastructure shutdown when

the town's primary power generator failed during a severe blizzard on Jan. 9. No heat, no lights, no water. The ambient temperature plunged to 50 degrees below zero. Winds were gusting to 50 to 70 mph, driving the wind-chill to a negative 65. Severe drifting of snow enveloped the entire community in a 15-foot wrap.

More than 150 residents were forced to abandon their freezing homes and huddle together in a small maintenance building powered with a single back-up generator. Another problem: no one could fly into or out of Kaktovik in such extreme conditions.

The North Slope Borough declared a disaster, making an urgent call for help.

At the request of the Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center at Camp Denali, on Ft. Richardson, opened a mission to organize efforts to airlift vital supplies and workers into the village.

The key component in mounting the rescue mission was the 176th Wing. Coordination with the 144th Airlift Squadron took place during the morning of Jan. 10 to take technicians and equipment aboard a C-130 Hercules to the remote village. The rage of the storm, however, kept relief teams grounded.

Conditions in the village were moving toward the edge of catastrophic. A new plan was developed. The 210th Rescue Squadron, using two HH-60 helicopters, would attempt to carry electrical technicians to Kaktovik to restore power. Meanwhile, a crew from the 144th AS would transport the other technicians from Barrow to Eielson Air Force Base with the 210th helicopters subsequently moving them from Eielson AFB to Kaktovik with a 211th Rescue Squadron's HC-130 Hercules rescue tanker providing refueling support and another set of 'weather eyes' for the trail ahead. The Rescue Detachment 1, at

Eielson AFB, coordinated arrival of the aircraft from the 144th AS and 210th RQS, through the 176th Wing Command Post, at Kulis Air National Guard Base.

The 144th AS's C-130 departed Barrow and successfully transported the technicians and their gear to Eielson AFB to the two awaiting HH-60 Pavhawk helicopters that had arrived at Eielson AFB from Kulis ANG Base.

Again, the severe weather conditions stymied nearly all efforts. The result: one helicopter attempted to fly to Kaktovik. The aircrew was able to pick its way as far north as Arctic Village before the blinding whiteout conditions caused them to return to Eielson AFB. Grit deepened.

Determination was now soundly mingled with urgency as the morning of Jan. 11th began. An HC-130 aircrew, from the 211th RQS at Kulis ANGB, readied to make a second attempt to get technicians into Kaktovik.

After a brief stop at Eielson AFB, a Pavhawk helicopter and HC-130 departed for Kaktovik. The rescue tanker provided a mid-air refueling with the helicopter just north of Arctic Village. The rescue tanker then flew ahead to Barter Island to observe conditions. The message to the Pavhawk crew: weather

was marginal with zero visibility due to snow and 75 mile an hour winds. Knowing the potential for disaster in the community, the helicopter crew proceeded through the weather and elements to successfully drop off the linemen. It was like giving blood to someone who was desperately short of life. The relief line was opened.

Severe weather was still champion, though the Alaska Air National Guard's HC-130 Hercules and HH-60 Pavhawk aircrews were directly responsible for turning the tide of a potential terrible event to favor the community of Kaktovik. Another breakthrough was made that afternoon when the 144th Airlift Squadron was called on to transport several emergency power generators and related gear from Barrow to Deadhorse to preposition for the next leg of the relief effort.

Just when you thought things couldn't get worse in Kaktovik, the main water line burst on Jan. 12th. The omnipresent cold continued to have a significant impact, though now some of the power and heat was being restored. And, the 144th AS departed from Kulis ANGB enroute to Deadhorse to move cargo from there to Barter Island.





Likewise, the 211th RQS was busy taking a 10-member relief team and their gear from Barrow to Kaktovik. The aircrews and their Hercules arrived back at Kulis ANG Base safe and satisfied that they'd make the difference in turning the tide in the battle to save the people of Kaktovik.

On Jan. 13th, the North Slope Borough terminated their request for

assistance to the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. The Alaska Rescue Coordination Center officially closed the mission. There are nearly 300 people at the top of the world who will never forget the extraordinary airmanship and personal dedication of the aircrews of the 176th Wing to the mission of bringing relief to their community. ■

**Editor's Note:** The 176th Wing is home to the 144th Airlift Squadron, 210th Rescue Squadron, 211th Rescue Squadron, 212th Rescue Squadron, Detachment 1 (at Eielson AFB) and the Alaska Rescue Coordination Center (at Camp Denali) – each of whom had airmen and officers involved with this incredible mission.

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**ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

# "Best Small Commissary" Award

Fort Greely's Commissary Nominated



Friendly Service Does Make A Difference at Fort Greely's Commissary. Service and quality are the leading reasons that the Post's commissary have been nominated for an award. The team includes: from left to right - Sandy Hecimovich (store administrator), Roberta Smith (store worker), Angie Taylor (teller), Amy Case (secretary), Mike Burcham and Glen Cotton (meat cutters), Ulysses Sims (store worker) and Richard Stillie (store director). Kimberly Case (cashier) and Christina Peters (support clerk) were not available for the photo because they were busy with...customers. Photo: Courtesy of Glen Shields through Fort Greely Public Affairs Office



Fort Greely's Commissary Nominated for "Best Small Commissary" Award. On the frozen tundra of the great Alaskan frontier sits the Fort Greely Commissary. It is the only Army outpost for groceries within 100 miles. Variety, outstanding customer service and a sales increase of more than 50 percent are several reasons why Fort Greely Commissary was recently nominated as "Best Small Commissary in the System" according to officials. Photo: Courtesy of Glen Shields through Fort Greely Public Affairs Office.

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# When Duty Calls

Story by Eric Minton (Reprinted by permission, NADA's AutoExec Magazine, September 2004)



When Duty Calls. Alaskans made the cover story of the September Issue of National Automobile Dealer's Association - NADA's AutoExec Magazine - talking about the impact of Guard and Reserve members being called-up for service in the War on Terrorism. Alaska auto dealer Rick Morrison and his son Ricky, who works fulltime for the Morrison Auto Group and is in the Alaska National Guard, are on the cover. Photo: Reprinted by permission, NADA's AutoExec Magazine, September 2004

## Guard & Reserve Resources

- Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR), with an Alaska Committee, answers employer questions, advises on problems, and mediates disputes. It also sponsors employer orientation programs and promotes re-employment rights of Guard & Reserve members. Call Mr. Mike Larson at 907-428-6670 or visit [www.esgr.org](http://www.esgr.org).
- The Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) of the Department of Labor oversees the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Visit [www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets) for a directory of VETS local offices and a nontechnical USERRA Resource Guide, and [www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm](http://www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm) for a primer on the law.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration, through its Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, offers assistance to business owners who lose key employees to activation. Visit [www.sba.gov/disaster/mreidlall.html](http://www.sba.gov/disaster/mreidlall.html)

Jon Ranck had been a parts adviser at Flanagan's Mazda/Jeep in Missoula, Mont., only six months when he had to leave for his Army Reserve unit's two-week annual training. Then two weeks after Ranck returned, he got activation orders, which kept him away for 16 months - including a year in Iraq.

Ranck didn't know exactly how long his deployment would last, but "I wasn't expecting it to be that long," he says. Every couple of months, he would call the dealership to say he'd be out longer. The store hired a "temporary" employee to fill in. "It was a little difficult when he came back," says owner Larry Flanagan, because Ranck was slated to supplant a worker who by then had more tenure at the store. Still, under federal law Ranck was entitled to his old job. In the end, Flanagan decided business growth justified creating an additional position to accommodate both employees.

Such disruptions are occurring at businesses around the nation. The mobilization of the National Guard and Reserves for the War on Terrorism is the largest since World War II.

But Middle East engagements only highlight a trend that has been sneaking up on employers for a decade. The Defense Department's "Total Force" policy calls for more frequent, extensive use of the Guard and Reserves. Yet they've downsized from 1.86 million in 1994 to 1.2 million today. So an individual's chances of being 'called-up' are much greater now.

"The workload right now for the volunteer Guard units and active military is way too heavy," says Rick Morrison, president and general manager, Morrison Auto Group, Anchorage, Alaska. He also serves with

Alaska's chapter of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a liaison between businesses and the reserves.) So "it's like a good employee who has to have a baby - you accommodate her," says Morrison, whose son Richard Morrison, Jr., a management trainee at the dealership, just joined the Alaska National Guard.

Besides, dealers don't have a choice: The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 strengthens requirements and penalties for employers.

## Accommodating Guardmembers & Reservists

When service adviser Tony Anderson took two weeks off to tend to his duties as an Army Reserve Staff Sergeant, "absolutely, it was a problem," says service manager Ken Went, Brewer Chrysler, Auburn, Wash., who only has two service advisers. But Went made it work; emphasizing that Anderson is a "great employee."

Though employers must maintain reservists' benefits while they're gone, dealers don't have to pay their salaries during activation or the shorter drills. But some employers voluntarily make up the difference between the usually lower military pay and the lost civilian salary. "We thought it was the thing to do if one of our employees was ever activated," says dealer Steve West, West Chevrolet, Alcoa, Tenn. "After Desert Storm we saw some of the hardships that people had," says West.

## Reservists' Responsibilities

USERRA puts the onus not only on employers, but also on Guardmembers and Reservists. Giving the employer advance notice of scheduled drill times, immediately informing the employer about activation orders, and providing documentation of upcoming military obligations - all good-faith actions in the past - are now legal obligations.

## Disciplined Employees

Despite all the inconveniences, many dealers have found that servicemen and women make model employees. "We've always found that the guys [with] an armed forces background take instruction very well, they're polite, they have good people skills, they rise in the ranks of the organization," says dealer Nason Feldman, Helfman Ford, Houston. "They understand chain of command; they've been trained to take responsibility."

Another plus: Guardmembers and Reservists get ongoing training at leadership schools and through conventional college degrees, all paid for by the military.

# Employees, Guardmembers, Reserves and the Law

Even long activations can reap benefits for the dealer when the reservist returns, as dealer Flanagan learned: "I think [Ranck] learned a lot; he matured a lot by that experience. It's kind of a tough price to pay, but I'm sure that we have a better person back because of it." Ranck himself feels he gained some people skills. As he told his service and parts director, "If I can put up with generals yelling at me, I can put up with anything customers say." ■

— Eric Minton is a free-lance writer based in Alexandria, Va.

*Disruptions are occurring at businesses around the nation. The mobilization of the National Guard and Reserves for the War on Terrorism is the largest since World War II.*

## *USERRA: Reservists' Legal Eagle*

Highlights of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA):

- Companies may not refuse employment or promotions or terminate an employee on the basis of his or her military service.
- Employers must let reservists fulfill all their military duties and training obligations, including monthly drills, annual training exercises, and military schools. These obligations may not count against the employee's job security, job advancement, or benefits.
- Employers may not force reservists to use vacation time for military service.
- Employers must grant full re-employment of employees called to active duty for up to five years.
- Employers must allow deactivated reservists time to settle in before returning to work. Those activated 30 to 180 days have a 14-day grace period, and those activated more than 180 days have up to 90 days to apply for re-employment (longer in event of a service-incurred disability).
- The employer must give reservists their job back as if they had never left. This includes scheduled promotions and pay raises, benefits and retirement plans, and rights under the Family Medical Leave Act. But reservists are not entitled to their old job back if it was eliminated because of downsizing or reorganization.
- With USERRA's stronger enforcement, if a court finds an employer in willful violation of USERRA, the company may have to pay double back pay and all court expenses. For more, see [www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets) or [www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm](http://www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm).



## Bosslift Takes Employers to Hawaii

*Employer's of Guardmembers and Reservists Take Closer Look at Training of the Forces*

Story by Senior Airman John Callahan

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii... A group of 23 business and community leaders from Alaska arrived in Hawaii as part of a Bosslift organized by the Alaska Air National Guard in late February. Alaska's yearly Bosslift program gives employers a greater familiarity with the Guard and Reserves and the role they play in maintaining national defense.



Aloha Visit to Guard Troops Headed to Afghanistan. More than two dozen Alaska business leaders from Fairbanks, Anchorage, Kenai, Kodiak, Southeast and the Mat-Su visited with 10 members of the 117th Mobile Public Affairs unit who were preparing for duty in Afghanistan. Members of the Employer's Support of the Guard & Reserve (ESGR) group were in Hawaii for several days to observe military units in training, meet with senior Pacific Command leaders, and get an orientation of military activities. Photo: Courtesy of Hawaii Army National Guard

The Alaska National Guard is composed primarily of "traditional" Guard members – men and women who serve their country one weekend a month and approximately 15 additional days throughout the year, and who stand by to be called to active duty if needed. It is a set of demands that is sometimes rigorous and demanding.

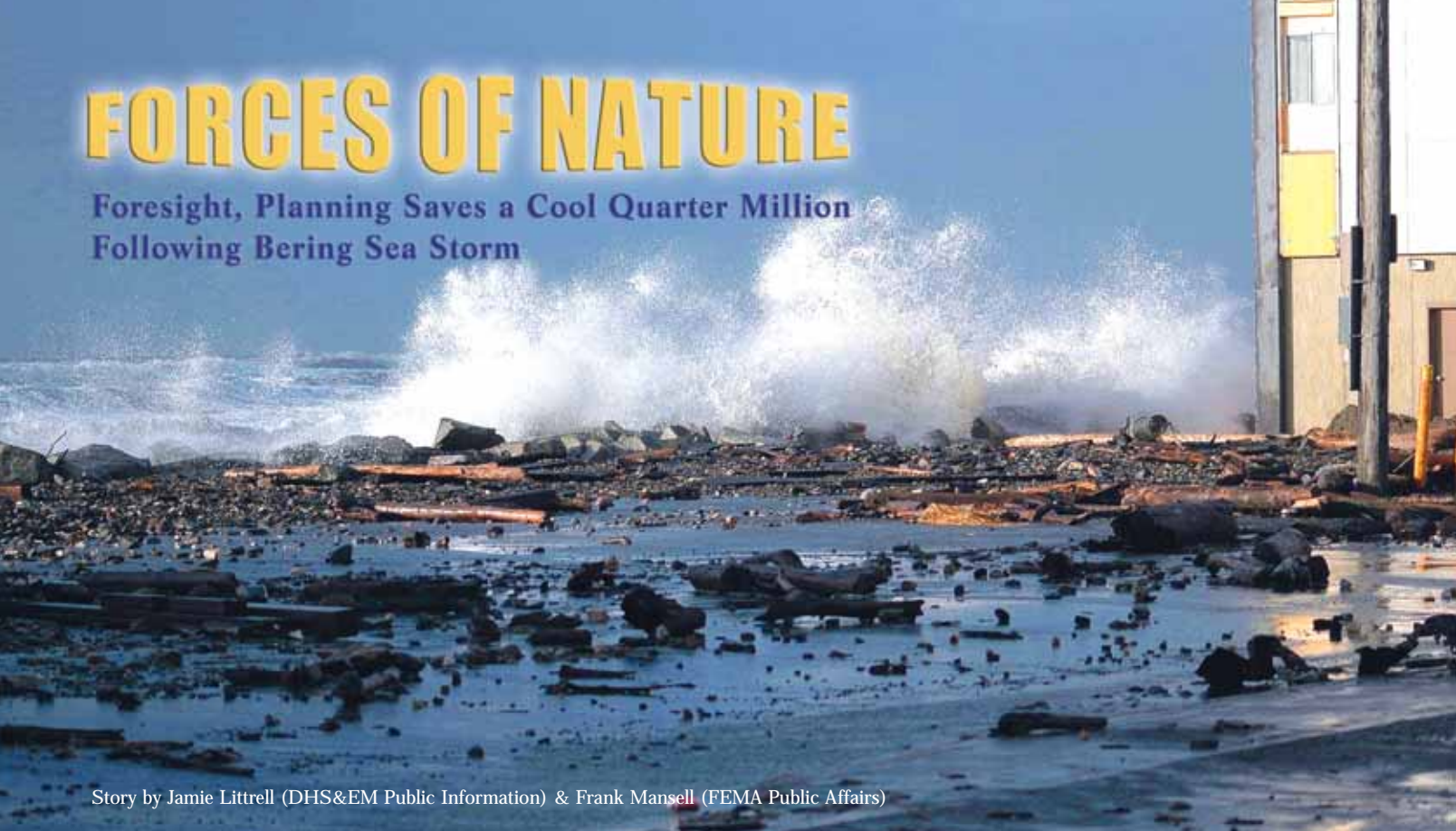
This year's Bosslift went to Hawaii

aboard a KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueler operated by the Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing, at Eielson AFB. During the trip they toured Guard facilities and met Guard members – including members of the Alaska Army National 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment training in Hawaii for eventual deployment to Afghanistan. ■

*To learn more about the Bosslift program and opportunities designed to promote good relationships between the Guardmembers and their civilian employers, go to [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil).*

# FORCES OF NATURE

## Foresight, Planning Saves a Cool Quarter Million Following Bering Sea Storm



Story by Jamie Littrell (DHS&EM Public Information) & Frank Mansell (FEMA Public Affairs)

Bering Sea Blast. Little Diomedé was among the communities pounded during the Fall Sea Storm in Northwest Alaska. The region endured widespread flooding as a result of the rains and high seas. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Floods are arguably one of nature's most destructive forces. Every year they threaten lives, property and infrastructure. Repairing buildings, roads and utilities are costly. Clearing and disposing of debris and cleaning invasive mold are outright arduous. Bottom line: repair and recovery costs from flooding can wreak havoc on community budgets.

With proper preparation and mitigation, communities can minimize risk and save millions of dollars. Just ask Randy Romanesko, City Manager for Nome, population 3,500. He estimates that Nome's preparedness saved more than \$250,000 in just two days.

Last fall, an extremely violent gale force storm roiled the Bering Sea pounding Nome. For two days, the storm ravaged the coastline, driving 18-foot seas over Nome's protective seawall.

When the storm subsided, the seawall was intact. Damage to the Front Street business district, however, was painfully evident. Debris from wind tattered buildings, standing water, street erosion and utility damage testified to the storm's fury.

Interestingly, there was good news! The devastation would have been much costlier to repair were it not for the City's foresight and commitment to mitigation and emergency planning.

Romanesko explained: "In a single comprehensive initiative, we identified community and business leaders, studied vulnerable locations, developed effective mitigation strategies and practiced disaster response plans."

"In 2000, we examined our emergency plan that we wrote in the early nineties. We found that it did not include businesses and important civic entities. With that before us, it was obvious we needed a plan for city and private interests," added Romanesko.

Nome created a comprehensive all-hazards plan with help

grants from the Alaska Department of Commerce and their own funding in 2001. By September 2002, the plan was drafted, presented at a public hearing and approved.

Within six months Nome was the first city, with a population less than 10,000, to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval of its comprehensive Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan. And it was only the second city, of any size, to achieve that goal. Romanesko said the \$10,000 plan included the services of a Homer consultant who brought clarity and a critical perspective to the process.

### Planning for Disaster

"One of our first goals was to examine flood plain maps, identify high risk locations and envision worst-case scenarios. Then, for each scenario, we discussed who should respond, what resources would be needed and how we could minimize damage.

"Knowing this, we invited city departments, volunteer agencies and businesses to form a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Public works, Alaska National Guard, police, utilities, the school district, fire service, health department, hospital, radio stations and Port Authority representatives participated. Our business partners included the AC Store, Norton Sound Health Corporation, Sitnasauk Native Corporation and Crowley Marine Services," he added.

The next step was central to their ultimate success, said Romanesko, "We went to school. We learned about Incident Command and Unified Command Management. More importantly, we learned how to work and communicate effectively as a team. We regularly practiced our skills at table top exercises and established an emergency operations center."

The committee drafted mitigation strategies, wrote a critical Emergency Protective Measures (EPM) plan, and identified where recovery equipment would be sheltered, how to protect building perimeters, and what equipment and furniture should be moved.

Long-term strategies included adding sump pumps at critical locations and reinforcing doorways by reversing the doors. They anchored propane tanks to prevent them from washing away and breaking potentially explosive, above ground service lines. Romanesko also explained that an effective mitigation strategy included strict enforcement of building codes and National Flood Insurance Program standards. The stage was set.

### The Disaster

"This storm was our first real test. Once we knew it was headed our way, the LEPC met to review the EPM plan. We activated the Public Works department, building maintenance staff and member employees of the LEPC," said Romanesko.

Nome's Public Library was a priority because the subterranean Carrie M. McLain Museum was located in the basement. In addition to installing sump pumps in the elevator shaft and basement and modifying doorways, Emergency Protective Measures included building perimeter berms, barricading openings and moving priceless artifacts upstairs. When the water receded, the building and the Museum avoided damage experienced by many other structures.

Nome's Mini Convention Center, a host venue for the

Iditarod dogsled race, was also a priority. Sealing the windows and doors reduced flood damage significantly. Floodwaters managed to seep in, but moving furniture and equipment to higher ground saved thousands of dollars and minimized clean up.

Other simple strategies were very effective. Utility vehicles, earthmovers, dump trucks and other equipment needed for the recovery were harbored at safe locations. When the storm subsided, Nome could respond quickly. Securing boats in the harbor and moving others to safer locations greatly reduced the damage.

No plan is effective without evaluation. "Within a week of the storm," explained Romanesko, "The LEPC was assessing what worked and what didn't. We weren't shy. We knew that critical evaluation would be an opportunity to learn and improve our plan."

If saving more than a quarter million dollars wasn't enough, there were many intangible benefits. Romanesko stated, "Our planning and training helped to build strong working relationships. There were very few surprises. Everyone knew their jobs and how others would respond to any given circumstance. Planning and communicating before a disaster is much more effective than introducing yourself and exchanging business cards at a disaster."

Romanesko concluded, "Another intangible benefit was credibility. Our professional response, before and after the storm, demonstrated our commitment to disaster preparation and recovery. We hope our citizens learn from our actions and prepare their homes and families for disaster." ■



Nome Watershed. Front Street got a lot of the brunt of the Fall Sea Storm for Nome. Damage, though serious, would have been much worse had the community not had its 'All Hazards Plan' in their hands and working for them. Officials estimate their damage would have easily climbed much higher. Photos: Courtesy of Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management



Bering Sea Blast. Little Diomed (above) was among the communities pounded during the fall sea storm in Northwest Alaska. The region endured widespread flooding as a result of the rains and high seas. Photo: Courtesy of Alaska Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

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# Family Support

## Local Dentist Joins the Air National Guard

*Sworn Into the 176th Wing by Chief of Staff – Her Brother*

Story and photo by Captain Candis Olmstead, 176th Wing



**A Family Tradition.** Brigadier General James Robinson, Chief of Staff, Alaska Air National Guard, presents his sister, Dr. Julie Robinson with her personal set of dog tags along with a set of their father's from his time in the Army. Dr. Robinson, a local dentist, joined the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard, as a part-time dentist. Her membership doubles dental readiness capabilities for the Wing.

KULIS ANG BASE...The 176th Wing added a key asset to their clinic staff today as a local dentist, Dr. Julie Robinson, swore an oath joining her with the other approximately 1,200 members of the Air Guard unit.

Her brother, Brigadier General James Robinson, who is the Chief of Staff for the Alaska National Guard, is pleased to have his sister join the ranks.

"This is a great day for the Alaska Air National Guard. I'm biased, yes – but I'm telling you, this is the best dentist in town," he said of his younger sibling.

The general also pointed out that dental problems are a readiness issue because "if you have a dental problem, you are not deployable."

"Considering some of the places we're sending our personnel, a tooth ache is a serious problem, and you're just not mission effective," he added.

"I'll just have to make sure they're

combat ready," said Robinson jokingly. She realizes, of course, that it is exactly what she will be doing.

When asked why she is joining now, she answered 'good old-fashioned patriotism.'

"It just seemed like a good time to join," she said.

Apparently the family tradition is still alive. Her brother, the general, presented her with her own personal set of dog tags and a set of Dad's, from when their father joined the Army in 1958.

Though Dr. Robinson is a little older than the average recruit, it should be noted that qualified health professionals – due to the nature of their education and training – are permitted to join the Guard, even with no prior military service, up to age 47.

"Just don't ask the doc how old she is," said General Robinson. ■



# Who We Are...

***What do you look forward to most with the arrival of spring?***

**Lt. Col. Mark Bour**  
State Partnership Coordinator  
(Alaska/Mongolia)



"I look forward to the long days and to be able to stay outside late."

**Joan Bolta**  
Family Programs,  
Youth Coordinator



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Alaska Army National Guard



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**Senior Airman Sara Howard**  
Alaska Air National Guard



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**Mark Merchant**  
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# Legacy

We are continuing to share passages from Alaska National Guard Historian Emeritus Cliff Salisbury's book, "Soldiers of the Mist." Major General John Schaeffer, the Adjutant General from 1986 to '91 said, "...it is important for present and future generations to understand the sacrifices our Minutemen and women have always made for Alaska." Our Legacy...

## The Great War – Part I

### The Home Guard 1917-1918

HOME GUARD MILITIA units had existed under several early governors during the later quarter of the 19th century for a variety of reasons. However, the true beginning of an organized militia on a grand scale took place in Alaska just prior to the Great War of 1917-1918. Diplomatic avenues to keep America neutral had nearly ended by the Fall of 1916. Although President Wilson had won reelection on the slogan "He Kept Us Out of War." America's payment for the price of freedom was about to begin. Many Alaskans realized in 1917 that the war in Europe would involve America before the year was over. Feelings of insecurity on the northern frontier, due in large part to the vast distances involved and the indifference of the government in Washington, swept the Territory like wildfire. On April 2, 1917, J.F.A. Strong, Governor of Alaska, received in Juneau a letter written from the Hotel Coeur d'Alene in Spokane, Washington.

**The Daily Alaska Dispatch**  
JUNEAU, ALASKA, FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1917  
MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NINETEENTH YEAR—MORNING EDITION—PRICE TEN CENTS**

**NATIONAL GUARD IS ESTABLISHED FOR TERRITORY**  
Juneau Will Have One Company of Guard Infantry and Fairbanks Will Have Another

The National Guard of Alaska is set at the Governor's office by Secretary of War, and will be organized under the provisions of the National Guard Act of 1916. The National Guard of Alaska is set at the Governor's office by Secretary of War, and will be organized under the provisions of the National Guard Act of 1916. The National Guard of Alaska is set at the Governor's office by Secretary of War, and will be organized under the provisions of the National Guard Act of 1916.

**MAKING PLANS HOME GUARD**  
Recommendation of the formation of a home guard in Skagway, the committee which has the project. In charge, will report tonight at a meeting of the committee. The committee will report tonight at a meeting of the committee. The committee will report tonight at a meeting of the committee.

**WRANGELL ORGANIZES MILITARY COMPANY WHICH OFFERS SERVICES**  
Wrangell, April 10.—Last night a patriotic meeting was held in this city which was attended by a throng of people which taxed the hall. The meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a military company, which was to be offered to the President through Governor Strong.

Dear Governor,  
This is to inform you, that as an Alaskan, even though in the States on business, I hold myself in readiness to your command, and will respond thereto, at any time you deem it necessary to organize a military body to answer the call that I think our President will issue within a week.  
Yours respectfully,  
(Signed) George Goshaw

The letter was written on March 26, 1917, even days before President Wilson asked Congress for the Declaration of War which brought America into the First World War. Although Goshaw was far from his home in Shishmaref he realized the significance of the world events

unfolding before him and the implications for his beloved Alaska.

George Goshaw epitomized the patriotic feelings which would shortly sweep the Territory. Although the Distant Quarter was short on population, the men it produced were legend in talent and experience. Goshaw had served as soldier in the United States Army at the turn of the century. In 1902, he left the Army in San Francisco to become a merchant in Nome. He met Amundsen when the famed Arctic explorer arrived in Nome after navigating the Northwest Passage and personally knew Brynsten, Lindberg and Linebloom. They were the trio who discovered the gold on Anvil Creek in 1898 that started one of Alaska's first large scale gold rushes.



Goshaw sold goods to miners, gamblers and prostitutes that poured into Nome. He shared front street with Rex Beach, Tex Rickard and Wyatt Earp. He recognized historical people and significant events when he saw them and wanted to take part in the action he saw was about to erupt on the American scene.

Goshaw volunteered in the Home Guard Militia when the war broke out but his spirit of adventure could not wait for a governor he felt was moving too slowly. He left the Territory and enlisted in the U.S. Army's 65th Engineers which ultimately became the U.S. Tank Corps. The commanding officer of this unit was a Lieutenant Dwight Eisenhower.

Goshaw obtained a commission and worked as a personnel officer. He discharged thousands of soldiers returning from France at the end of the war. He returned to Alaska as a fur trader and would spend the rest of his life in the Arctic. When the Second World War came to Alaska in 1941, Goshaw would serve as an officer in the Alaska Territorial Guard.

The recipient of Goshaw's letter, J.F.A. Strong, had become Governor of Alaska in 1915. The popular governor had been a prospector during the gold rush and had founded the *Daily Empire* in Juneau. He leased the newspaper to a fellow prospector named John Troy when he became governor. John Troy would also serve as a Governor of Alaska.

The extent to which Alaskans responded in support of the war effort was almost unbelievable considering the small population of the Territory and its distance from France – half a globe away. The responsibility for the defense of Alaska would ultimately be shouldered

by a volunteer militia as young men left the Territory in droves to join the regular military services.

The manpower crunch eventually caused some mining operations and logging camps to restrict their productivity. The newly authorized Alaska Railroad's construction program saw its completion date delayed by several years due to the shortage of workers. ■

Next *Legacy* installment from ***Soldiers of the Mists*** series: The Great War – Part II

*Soldiers of the Mists* was published by Pictorial Histories Publishing of Missoula, Montana, March 1992. It is available through fine bookstores throughout Alaska and online.

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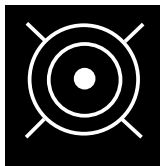


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# Awards • Decorations • Promotions

## Bronze Star



TSgt Robert Dowler .....168th LRS

## Airman's Medal



MSgt David Shuman .....212th RQS

## Meritorious Service Medal



LTC Jeffrey Badger .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
MAJ Garry Curtiss .....1/297th Inf (Scout)  
LTC Tim Koeneman .....3/297th Inf (Scout)  
SMSgt Robert Allen Jr. ....168th MSF  
MSgt Antonio Lucchesi .....168th AMXS  
Lt Col Donald Wenke .....168th OG  
Lt Col Wendy Wenke .....168th MSG  
Lt Col Jeffrey Larsen .....168th OSF  
MSgt Bobbi Baruneis .....176th LRS  
MSgt Gary Caudell .....144th AS  
MSgt Glance Chambers Jr. ....176th LRS  
Maj Tom Cobaugh .....176th AMXS  
Lt Col Charles Foster .....176th MSG  
CMSgt George Gurke .....144th AS  
MSgt John Hutwagner .....176th MXS  
SMSgt Victoria Lambert .....176th MXS  
CMSgt Garth Lenz .....212th RQS  
Maj David Looney .....210th RQS  
Maj Peter Manthey .....210th RQS  
MSgt Rebecca McClung .....206th CCS  
MSgt Dave Mertens .....176th Wg  
SMSgt Randy Nelson .....176th OG  
MSgt Kevin Park .....JFHQ-AK (Air)  
Maj Daryl Peterson .....210th RQS  
MSgt Sal Provenzano .....RCC  
MSgt Royce Qualls .....176th ACS  
SMSgt Robert Stamm .....176th OG  
SMSgt Dave Streit .....176th Wg  
CMSgt Tim Tillman .....176th Wg  
MSgt Jeff Ullon .....176th OG  
MSgt Youngblood .....176th MXS

## Air Medal



SMSgt Carl Brooks .....212th RQS  
Lt Joseph Conroy .....212th RQS  
SSgt Jonathon Davis .....212th RQS  
CMSgt Garth Lenz .....212th RQS  
Lt Ricardo Montana .....212th RQS  
MSgt Michael Murphy .....212th RQS  
TSgt Paul Nelson .....212th RQS

SMSgt Paul Reddington .....212th RQS  
SSgt Chris Robertson .....212th RQS  
MSgt Mario Romero .....212th RQS  
TSgt John Romspert .....212th RQS  
SSgt Robert Schnell .....212th RQS  
MSgt David Shuman .....212th RQS  
TSgt Steven Slagle .....212th RQS  
SSgt Jeremy Stephens .....144th AS  
SRA Michael Sullivan .....212th RQS  
SSgt Chris Tellsworth .....212th RQS  
MSgt David Thomson .....212th RQS  
SSgt Ben Walker .....212th RQS  
TSgt Chris Widener .....212th RQS  
SSgt Matthew White .....212th RQS  
TSgt Stephen Wolfe .....212th RQS

## Army Commendation Medal



CPT Mark Binggeli .....297th Support Bn  
CPT Darrin Dorn .....1/207th Avn Bn  
CW2 Marcia Harrison .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SFC Megan Healy .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SFC David Powell .....R&R Cmd  
SSgt Peter Baksis .....168th LRS

## Air Force Commendation Medal



TSgt Carla Mashaney .....168th AMXS  
SSgt Michelle Fisher .....168th ARS  
SSgt Laura Whitehouse .....168th CF  
MSgt Steven Guyton .....168th ARW  
TSgt Steve Adams .....144th AS  
TSgt James Assenmacher .....176th CF  
MSgt Jennifer Assenmacher .....176th ACS  
TSgt Ken Bellamy .....176th Wg  
TSgt Martin Bellerive .....176th Wg  
TSgt Kelly Burdick .....176th MXS  
MSgt Christine Carlin-Meier .....176th ACS  
SRA John Carmen .....176th SVF  
SSgt Steve Dawson .....176th MXS  
SSgt Cecil Dickerson .....176th APF  
SSgt Anthony Gardner .....176th SVF  
TSgt Henry Gatpandan .....176th SVF  
CMSgt James Grimes .....176th MXS  
SRA John Hammack III .....176th LRS  
Lt Matthew Harper .....210th RQS  
SMSgt Julie Harvey .....176th MSF  
SRA Geneva Hopkins .....176th SVF  
Capt Carrie Howard .....176th ACS  
MSgt Ron Ingreso .....176th MSG  
CMSgt Allan Jackson .....176th SVF  
MSgt Barbara Jackson .....176th CES  
SMSgt Kerry James .....176th AMXS  
MSgt Richard Jenkins .....176th OSF  
SMSgt Karen Johnson .....176th MSF

Lt Col Peter Katinszky .....211th RQS  
SRA Keri Larkin .....176th SVF  
SSgt Mario Martinez .....176th SVF  
SSgt David McGee-Stuenkel .....176th MXS  
Col Deborah McManus .....JFHQ-AK (Air)  
SRA Jay Mendoza .....176th LRS  
TSgt Julia Mills .....176th MXS  
SSgt Aimee Noto .....176th OSF  
SSgt Gailanne Paculba .....RCC  
MSgt John Paff Jr. ....176th Wg  
MSgt Michael Paulsen .....176th AMXS  
Capt Howard Potton .....210th RQS  
TSgt Brian Richmond .....176th MXS  
SRA Michael Robertson .....176th SVF  
SSgt Gloria Rucker .....212th RQS  
CMSgt John Savina .....176th AMXS  
TSgt Jeffrey Schaezlein .....176th Wg  
CMSgt Gaylen Schaugaard .....144th AS  
SRA Leah Scott .....176th SVF  
SSgt Earl Singleton .....176th LRS  
TSgt T.L. Stanbro .....176th MXS  
MSgt Joedy Wake .....176th AMXS  
SRA Gary Weir .....144th AS  
TSgt Eric Welling .....176th Wg  
Maj Russ Wilmot III .....176th OSF  
TSgt Craig Wood .....176th MOF  
SRA Paul Zagorski .....144th AS

## Army Achievement Medal



SPC Wanda Solomon .....117th MPAD

## Air Force Achievement Medal



SSG Ken Denny .....117th MPAD  
SPC Laura Griffin .....117th MPAD  
SPC Michael Coleman .....117th MPAD  
SPC Jamie Wunn .....117th MPAD  
PFC John Chriswell .....117th MPAD  
SSgt Thomas Onyekwelu .....168th LRS  
TSgt Shannon Amos .....176th SFS  
MSgt Darlene Anderson .....176th LRS  
TSgt James Assenmacher .....176th CF  
Capt Corinne Barclay .....176th MDG  
TSgt Marcus Bledsaw .....176th MOF  
SRA Scott Braley .....176th CF  
SSgt Luz Brown .....176th LRS  
TSgt Brian Bunce .....206th CCS  
Maj Rick Cavens .....176th Wg  
TSgt Danny Chounramany .....176th Wg  
MSgt Lisa Coker .....176th MSF  
SSgt Conrado Collins .....176th Wg  
MSgt Teresa Cooper .....176th Wg  
MSgt Milton Cornelius .....176th CF  
SSgt Bryson Dang .....176th Wg

SSgt Jonathan Diel .....176th CF  
 SSgt Dwight Dinger .....176th Wg  
 SRA Andrew Duren .....176th CF  
 TSgt Albert Felder .....176th LRS  
 MSgt Douglas Gannon .....211th RQS  
 MSgt Lyn Garrett .....176th MXS  
 TSgt Tracy Glaze .....176th MSF  
 MSgt William Gotti .....176th MDG  
 SRA Athena Hromada .....206th CCS  
 TSgt Eric Haugen .....176th Wg  
 TSgt Ashley Hill .....176th MSF  
 TSgt Angela Hunter .....176th MSF  
 SSgt James Iagulli .....206th CCS  
 MSgt Barbara Jackson .....176th CES  
 TSgt Paul Jenkins .....176th LRS  
 Lt Col Lance Jennings .....176th Wg  
 SSgt Chelsea Johnson .....176th LRS  
 SSgt Jason Johnson .....176th Wg  
 SRA Donna Judkins .....176th MSF  
 MSgt Dean Kalbfeisch .....176th CF  
 SRA Joshua Lester .....176th APF  
 TSgt Yvonne Little .....176th CF  
 SSgt Shaquita Long .....176th LRS  
 SSgt Michelle Macasaet .....176th OSF  
 SSgt Sharon McCool .....176th OSF  
 SRA Shane McDonnell .....206th CCS  
 SMSgt Iscah Miles .....176th OSF  
 Lt Hannah Mitson .....176th OG  
 SSgt Harold Moss .....176th MXS  
 SRA Adam Muller .....176th ACS  
 TSgt Denise Plazier .....176th MSF  
 SSgt Kim Pond .....176th LRS  
 MSgt Jeanette Reddington .....176th LRS  
 MSgt Lolly Reid .....176th MG  
 SSgt Gloria Rucker .....212th RQS  
 MSgt Delmer Schaefers .....176th CF  
 CMSgt Cassandra Shea .....176th OSF  
 SRA Audrey Smith .....176th MXS  
 TSgt Cheryl Stocks .....176th LRS  
 MSgt Ronnie Stocks .....176th MOF

SRA Jesse Stuart .....176th MXS  
 SSgt Alan Swircenski .....176th CF  
 SSgt Peggy Thielking .....210th RQS  
 SSgt David Victory .....176th Wg  
 TSgt Ryan Voigt .....176th MDG  
 TSgt Clinton Walker .....176th CF  
 TSgt Rebecca Webster .....206th CCS  
 SSgt Lakiesha Williams .....176th LRS

#### Alaska Legion of Merit



LTC Jeffrey Badger .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 LTC Tim Koeneman .....3/297th Inf (Scout)

#### Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



MAJ Garry Curtiss .....1/297th Inf (Scout)  
 SFC Juanita Thomas .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
 SGM Barbara Zanders .....JFHQ-AK (Army)

#### Alaska Commendation Medal



CMSgt Garth Lenz .....212th RQS  
 MSgt Antonio Lucchesi .....168th AMXS  
 SMSgt Michael Taylor .....168th AMXS  
 MSgt Glance Chambers .....176th LRS

#### Alaska Humanitarian Service Medal



Brig Gen James Robinson .....JFHQ-AK (Air)  
 Maj Russ Wilmot III .....176th OSF

#### Alaska Governor's Distinguished Unit Citation



168th Security Forces Squadron

## ANNUAL AWARDS

# 168th Air Refueling Wing

#### Governor's Trophy

168th Communications Flight

#### Malico-Helgerman Award

TSgt Robert Dowler .....168th LRS

#### Officer of the Year

Capt Amy Vanderzanden .....168th OSF

#### Senior NCO of the Year

MSgt Christine Lemieux .....168th MXS

#### NCO of the Year

TSgt Brian Harlan .....168th ARS

#### Airman of the Year

SRA Robert Hall .....168th SFS

## PROMOTIONS

#### Colonel

Tony Shumate ... Regional Training Institute

#### Sergeant Major

Peter Jensen ..... R&R Cmd

#### Chief Master Sergeant

Todd Cook ..... 168th ARW

#### Senior Master Sergeant

Pamela Cox ..... 168th ARW

Patrick Skinner ..... 168th ARW

#### Master Sergeant (E-7)

Danny Coleman ..... 168th ARW

Gerald Boynton ..... 168th ARW

William Miller ..... 168th ARW

Amy Stalder ..... 168th ARW

Timothy Vanderhoff ..... 168th ARW

#### Technical Sergeant

Joseph Donoghue ..... 168th ARW

Kelly Shewfelt ..... 168th ARW

Jason Deheus ..... 168th ARW

John Brunsberg ..... 168th ARW

Heather David-Damm ..... 168th ARW

Claudia Barclay ..... 168th ARW

#### Staff Sergeant (E-5)

Robert Hall ..... 168th ARW

Thomas Onyekwelu ..... 168th ARW

Clint Kerr ..... 168th ARW

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# Warriors Training Schedule

Here are the inactive training dates for all Alaska Army and Air National Guard units. Dates for subordinate units are the same as their parent headquarters, unless otherwise indicated. All dates are subject to change. Most Alaska Army Guard units perform annual training (AT) through the winter.

	April	May	June	July
<b>Alaska National Guard</b>				
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	2-3	14-15	4-5	16-17
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	2-3	14-15	4-5	None
<b>Alaska Army National Guard</b>				
207th Infantry Group	2-3	13-15	3-5	None
1/207th Aviation Regiment	9-10	13-15	3-5	None
297th Support Battalion	2-3	13-15	3-5	None
Regional Training Institute	9-10	13-15	3-5	None
<b>Alaska Air National Guard</b>				
168th Air Refueling Wing	2-3	14-15	4-5	16-17
176th Wing	2-3	14-15	4-5	16-17
206th Combat Communications Sqdn.	2-3	14-15	4-5	16-17

# BUCKLE UP

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